

REMARKS

Claims 25-48 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 25-32 are rejected. Claims 33-48 are objected to but would be allowable if claim 33 is placed into independent form. Claims 25 to 32 are canceled and claim 33 is amended to be independent. Furthermore, new claims 49 to 52, which correspond to the previous claims 29 to 32, are added.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 25-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Janssen (US 6,560,529) in view of Spry (US 5,596,319). This rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of the claims.

Claims 30-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Janssen (US 6,560,529). This rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of the claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 33-48 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have placed claim 33 into independent form, adding at least the limitations found in claims 30-32. Additional limitations are added for clarity and to provide antecedent bases for the dependent claims.

New Claims

New claims 49-52 are added. Applicants respectfully submit that these claims define an invention that is not found in or obvious in view of the prior art to Janssen or Spry.

Specifically, according to the present invention as defined by the new claims, perspective image data with respect to the circumstances around the traffic facilities is converted into plane image and the plane image is compared with the image data stored in the database. However, in Janssen and Spry, it is not disclosed that perspective image data is converted into plane image and the plane image is compared with the image data stored in the database. Therefore, the present invention is not obvious from Janssen and Spry.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

/Alan J. Kasper/

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: July 6, 2009

Alan J. Kasper
Registration No. 25,426